

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, over the years the true meaning of Memorial Day has faded from the public consciousness. Memorial Day began after the Civil War as a solemn day of mourning, remembrance, and honor to our departed loved ones. But today, Memorial Day seems to be more about planning a 3-day weekend than remembering our fallen heroes. As a veteran of two wars, I know all too well that Memorial Day is much more than a 3-day weekend or the beginning of a summer sale.

Veteran's Day, a day set aside to honor all veterans, living and dead, is celebrated on November 11, regardless of which day of the week it falls on. The same should be true for Memorial Day.

Mr. Speaker, this week I am introducing legislation restoring Memorial Day to its actual day, May 30. We owe our loved ones and friends who died in service to their country a restored Memorial Day.

JOIN THE PICTURE THEM HOME CAMPAIGN

(Mr. LAMPSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I will again digress this morning from my stories of Ludwig Koonz, but not our effort to return him to the United States from Italy.

As chairman of the Congressional Caucus on Missing and Exploited Children, I would ask that as we approach this Memorial Day that we not only pay honor to those who have given their lives to our country, but to the tens of thousands of innocent children who are still missing from their loved ones in this country. We maintain hope that the children will come home and that they will come home not only with the help of law enforcement, but with the help of the American people.

A few years back, National Center for Missing and Exploited Children instituted the Picture Them Home campaign to be observed during the month of May. I have asked my colleagues on a number of occasions to place pictures of missing children on their franked envelopes, which is allowed under the franking guidelines, and many of them have chosen to do so. This morning I ask that everyone here join me in supporting this effort and help us Picture Them Home.

Participating in this campaign only takes a few minutes of your time. First, pledge to take the time to really look at the pictures of the missing children that you see. These may be pictures on bulletin boards in your local Wal-Mart, or they may be the "Have You Seen Me?" cards that are sent out by ADVO. Second, if you are a parent, make sure that you maintain current, high-quality pictures of your children for use in case of an emergency.

Mr. Speaker, we know that pictures work. All you have to do is look.

NURSING SHORTAGE PLAGUING U.S.

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, health care experts are worried that a national nursing shortage could become widespread later in the decade, just as the aging U.S. population requires more care. Educational institutes, hospitals and Congress are working feverishly to fill this global shortage, because it is nurses who impact the lives of people in times of health, illness, pain, stress, and even death.

Nurses' talents, long hours and many sacrifices should be recognized. One of the ways in which Baptist Health South Florida appreciated nurses is by having recently hosted "Shadow a Nurse Day."

Baptist Hospital, South Miami Hospital, Homestead Hospital, Mariners Hospital, and Baptist Outpatient Services were the health care sites which participated in this event.

By helping the population to gain a greater understanding of the issues facing nurses today, these health care sites perhaps contributed to helping relieve the existing nursing shortage plaguing our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Baptist Health South Florida for its commitment to the future of nursing.

END THE TRADE EMBARGO ON CUBA

(Ms. MCCOLLUM asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, 90 miles from America's shore is the island of Cuba, but what really separates the people of Cuba and the American people is the U.S. Government's hypocritical trade embargo restated this week by President Bush.

This failed policy towards Cuba empowers Fidel Castro, denies American businesses the freedom to trade, and prohibits the American people the freedom to travel.

Around the world, the United States has used economic engagement to promote political reform, democratic values and human rights. With Cuba, our government does the opposite. We punish the Cuban people with a trade embargo.

For a free and open Cuba, let us free American businesses to trade with Cuba, free America's farmers to sell to Cuba, and free the American people to travel to Cuba. The trade embargo has failed. The spirit of the American people and the power of our economy can achieve the freedoms we all desire for the Cuban people.

STATE DEPARTMENT RELEASES TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, in the coming weeks, the State Department will be releasing its annual "Trafficking in Persons report." This report will highlight the very serious problem of international sex trafficking and forced prostitution around the world in the countries that tolerate it.

Still, some of the worst offenders such as India and Thailand have made no progress in combating this sex trafficking. Worse, it is on the rise.

In India, over 2.3 million girls and women are believed to be working in the sex industry against their will. Yet there are no known convictions for sex trafficking.

In Thailand, we are up to 1 million trafficking victims. Approximately 100,000 are children, boys and girls; yet there are no known convictions for sex trafficking.

Mr. Speaker, this is unacceptable.

Mr. Speaker, the complicity and tolerance of sex trafficking must stop. The State Department must not grant passing grades to these countries in its report until they show real improvement and begin to protect women and children in their country.

AMENDMENT ALLOWS DEFENSE DEPARTMENT FREE HAND FOR ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGE

(Mr. BLUMENAUER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, during my tenure in Congress, I have worked hard for the Federal Government to be a better partner to promote the liveability of our communities by walking the walk, by acting the way that we are asking the rest of America to behave. Yet, here today, we are going to be asking in the supplemental to exempt the Defense Department, the largest manager of infrastructure in the world, from being a good environmental citizen.

This bill contains an amendment that would relieve the Department of Defense from its responsibility for dealing with water consumption that occurs outside the control of the Secretary of Defense that is a direct result of the military installation. In particular, this is focused on the San Pedro River in Arizona, one of the richest biological reserves in all of North America. It has over 82 species of mammals, 385 species of birds, and was designated by this Congress as a National Riparian Conservation Area in 1988.

But as a result of this amendment, snuck in without debate by the substantive committee, that will not be substantively argued on this floor, we are going to basically give them a free